

NY Times

50 Argyle Road
Scarsdale, N.Y. 10583
Oct. 24, 1975

Dear Josh,

Thank you for your good letter of the 13th.


Your remarks are, of course, unexceptional, and your instinct that something was missing was extremely perceptive.

For space and other reasons that piece had removed from it some material indicating that some people with genetic diseases are taking an aggressively belligerent policy of declaring that they will brook no interference with their right to procreate - apparently because they are confident that by the time their children grow up and have the full effects of their genetic diseases apparent medical science will know how to solve all their problems.

The deeper problem, of course, is that medicine is learning all the time how to keep people alive even with very unsatisfactory quality of life, while the increasing socialization of medicine puts the bill on society. The Karen Quinlan case in which medicaid has already been billed for over \$100,000 while some attorneys trumpet that this poor comatose creature has a "right to life" that cannot be interfered with until all the resources of medicine have been absolutely exhausted illustrates that aspect. Meanwhile of course we don't have enough resources to help people who could really enjoy life and contribute to society if their present debilitating problems were alleviated. I suppose ~~is~~ what I'm really arguing for is sensible priorities in the use of limited resources.

Again many thanks for your note. It was good to hear from you.

Cordially


Harry Schwartz